Summer 2006

review

A Low-Carbon Future for Canada: The NRTEE Advisory Report on Energy and Climate Change

(Left to right) Alexander Wood, Acting President & CEO, NRTEE, Glen Murray, NRTEE Chair and Manon Laporte, President & CEO, Enviro-Access and NRTEE Member released the NRTEE's ***Advice on a Long-term Strategy on Energy and Climate Change*** *at a press conference held in Ottawa on June 21, 2006.*

It is possible for Canada to simultaneously make meaningful reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions while increasing productivity and competitiveness, improving air quality and meeting the energy needs of our growing economy—that's the conclusion of a National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) advisory report on energy and climate change.

The study, released June 21, focused on two questions: How can Canada protect and enhance its national interest with regard to energy and climate change issues between now and 2050? And what do we need to do right now to meet this long-term objective?

"This study is a first," said NRTEE chair Glen Murray. "While other studies have described in general terms how climate change will affect our economy and environment, this is the first detailed examination of what a low-carbon future might look like for Canada over the next half century."

The study, part of the NRTEE's Long-Term Energy and Climate Change Strategy, reports that:

- Using existing technologies, and even with a growing economy and increases in oil sands production,

Continued on page 4

"Sustained, long-term action is the only way Canada can create significant reductions in GHG emissions, but we need to start now if we are going to bring about meaningful change."

– Alexander Wood

National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy | Table ronde nationale sur l'environnement et l'économie

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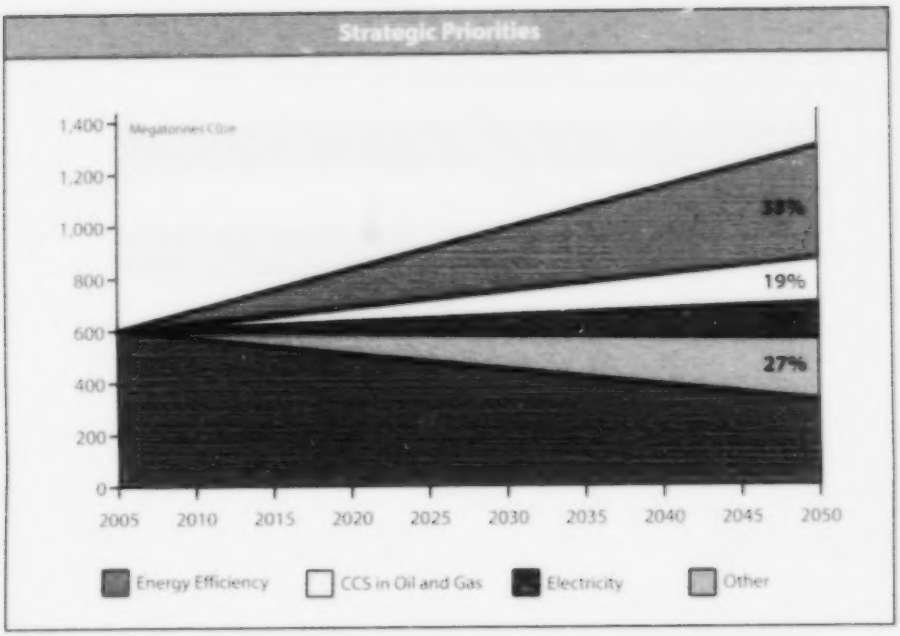

What does Canada look like in 2050 under this scenario?

The advisory report assumes Canada has a population of about 45 million in 2050, a larger economy—more than double in real terms—and growth in oil and gas production that outstrips growth in domestic demand. The analysis is limited to existing technologies.

Personal use of energy

Housing density has increased and Canadian homes are much more energy efficient—solar heating and power systems are the norm. The majority of jobs are in services and light manufacturing, and these land uses are integrated into residential developments so that it has become more common to live and work in the same "walkable" neighbourhood or work at home a few days each week.

Canadians who travel to work are more likely to use public transit, which has become more efficient and convenient as a result of higher density and improved design. Personal vehicles get better mileage (averaging close to 80 mpg or 3.6 L per 100k) and are generally fueled by ethanol mixed with 15 percent gasoline.

Energy to drive the economy

Electricity is made by a much more diverse and widely distributed set of generators, including a greatly expanded role for local cogeneration and micro-turbine systems, wind power and other renewable sources. There is more east–west connectivity in the grid.

Freight distribution has not changed dramatically since the turn of the century, although efficiency has at least doubled and reliance on trucks is back to 1990 levels, with marine and rail transport picking up the difference.

The industrial structure of Canada has continued its gradual shift to manufacturing, service and high-tech manufacturing. Energy-intensive industries have increased their energy efficiency. While domestic energy demands have fallen, the oil and gas industry continues to produce at rates similar to those achieved at the turn of the century, exporting oil and gas to the US and the rest of the world. ■

The Wedges

To present the scenario for a 60 percent GHG reductions to 2050 for energy-related sources, the NRTEE advisory report uses a wedge diagram to show how existing technology can meet the climate change challenge.

The wedges represent the amount of reduction of CO_2-equivalent that would be achieved per year by 2050. There are 31 wedges in the GHG Reduction Diagram for Canada, but the three strategic priorities are: energy efficiency improvements; carbon capture and sequestration in the oil and gas sector; and electricity generation.

These strategic priorities represent those wedges that so important that they become "make-or-break" issues for Canada. Failure to start implementing these technologies soon would impede our ability to make a significant reduction in GHG emissions, even in the long run.

To check out the comprehensive wedge diagram, please go Section IV of the advisory report. ■

Next Steps

The wedge diagrams in the advisory report show which technologies and actions can be combined to reach a particular GHG reduction target, but they don't specify how these reductions can be achieved. So the NRTEE is now looking at costs and benefits of technologies associated with key wedges, policies to encourage the adoption of these technologies at the levels suggested in the analysis, and feasible ways to develop long-term GHG reduction policies.

The NRTEE is also initiating a national discussion through a series of half-day seminars in up to 10 cities across Canada between September 2006 and April 2007. These sessions will engage key players, using the wedge analysis and the advisory report's key findings as a starting point to discuss this country's long-term response to energy and climate change plus the potential roles of government and non-government players.

Analysis of this input will be forwarded to the Minister of the Environment. ■

2008-01601/

Publications Catalogue

Summer 2006

State of the Debate Series

Boreal Futures: Governance, Conservation and Development in Canada's Boreal

By the NRTEE

In 2003, the NRTEE established a program to examine how to advance conservation in balance with economic activity on public lands in the boreal region currently experiencing industrial-level activity – the "working landscape". Specifically, the National Round Table examined the role of fiscal and regulatory policy in achieving a balance between conservation and development in Canada's boreal region.

The result of extensive research and multistakeholder input:, this report identifies opportunities for achieving the balance in the region through initiatives in four interrelated areas: leadership, education and information; ecological fiscal reform; innovations in planning and regulatory frameworks; and institution and capacity building.

Available in English and French.
2005, 93 pp., ISBN 1-894737-11-3
$19.98 ($14.00 US)

Economic Instruments for Long-term Reductions in Energy-based Carbon Emissions

By the NRTEE

The NRTEE has examined the role of economic instruments in supporting technologies with the potential to reduce energy-based carbon emissions on both the demand and supply sides of the energy equation.

How a government taxes and spends has an enormous effect on the way the economy works – and the way to maximize this impact is to ensure policies work together to support over-arching goals, like a sustainable energy future.

The result of a two-year multistakeholder process, the NRTEE has developed a set of recommendations aimed at helping the country take a leadership position in the innovation of technologies that will lay the foundations of a sustainable energy future, in Canada and around the world.

Available in English and French.
2005, 129 pp., ISBN 1-894737-09-1
$19.98 ($14.00 US)

Securing Canada's Natural Capital: A Vision for Nature Conservation in the 21st Century

By the NRTEE

In 2001, the NRTEE established a program to examine key challenges and opportunities for conservation. The goal of the program was to encourage all Canadians to undertake stewardship of the land and waters – publicly and privately owned – and to shape and support new tools that can be used to better conserve, restore and maintain the long-term health of ecosystems.

The result of extensive research and multistakeholder input, this report presents 20 recommendations aimed at furthering conservation in Canada. The National Round Table is calling for federal action in five key areas: conservation planning for whole landscapes; partnerships with industry on working landscapes; community stewardship; conservation of marine ecosystems; and implementing a national framework for action.

Available in English and French.
2003, 125 pp., ISBN 1-894737-07-5
$19.98 ($14.00 US)

Environmental Quality in Canadian Cities: The Federal Role

By the NRTEE

In 2001, the NRTEE launched a program to address the emerging importance of Canadian cities. In particular, it aimed to determine a continued and expanded role for the federal government in urban environmental issues, through the use of more effective fiscal policy.

This report is the product of research and consultation among key stakeholders including representatives from across the country, all three levels of government, the private sector and the environmental community. It proposes 11 high-priority recommendations for immediate implementation, falling under four mutually supportive themes: getting the federal house in order; supporting the use of urban transit; promoting sustainable infrastructure; and encouraging the efficient use of energy and land.

Available in English and French.
2003, 83 pp., ISBN 1-894737-08-3
$19.98 ($14.00 US)

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State of the Debate Series

Environment and Sustainable Development Indicators for Canada

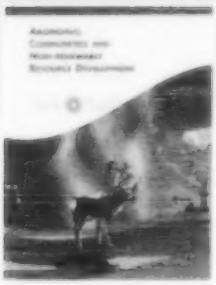
By the NRTEE

Canada's decision-makers have no way of measuring whether our country can maintain its current level of economic activity and prosperity into the future. In the 2000 budget, the federal government asked the NRTEE to "…develop a set of indicators to measure environmental performance in conjunction with economic performance."

Working in close collaboration with Statistics Canada and Environment Canada, the National Round Table has developed six proposed new formal economic measures or indicators. These indicators will augment familiar economic data such as gross domestic product (GDP) and the consumer price index (CPI).

Five of the recommended indicators measure Canada's natural capital – measuring trends in forest cover, freshwater quality, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and the extent of wetlands. The sixth indicator measures educational attainment.

Available in English and French.
2003, 100 pp., ISBN 1-894737-06-7
$15.95 ($11.50 US)



Aboriginal Communities and Non-renewable Resource Development

By the NRTEE

In 1998, the NRTEE launched a program to explore the relationship between Aboriginal communities and non-renewable resource development from the perspective of sustainability. What has emerged is one of the most comprehensive studies conducted over the past 10 years in Canada's North of Aboriginal communities and non-renewable resource development.

Using extensive research and multi-stakeholder input, the report presents 15 recommendations aimed at building sustainable Aboriginal communities in Canada's North over the next 10 to 25 years.

Available in English and French.
2001, 121 pp.,
ISBN 1-894737-01-6
$15.95 ($11.50 US)

Managing Potentially Toxic Substances in Canada

By the NRTEE

Canadians are increasingly concerned about the health impacts of chemical substances in the environment. Yet they still want the economic benefits of new chemicals, materials and medicines.

In 1998, the NRTEE began a multi-stakeholder process to investigate how government assesses chemical substances and how it makes decisions about their use.

This report documents the results of that work, presenting 11 recommendations aimed at improving the decision-making processes designed to protect Canadians from health impacts that could result from contact with dangerous chemicals in air, water, soil and food.

Available in English and French.
2001, 86 pp., ISBN 1-894737-00-8
$15.95 ($11.50 US)

Greening Canada's Brownfield Sites

By the NRTEE

Across Canada, thousands of contaminated sites lie abandoned or underutilized, the result of a century of industrialization. Many of these sites have not been identified because of insufficient information on the environmental condition of land.

The report examines barriers to brownfield redevelopment and finds solutions to overcome them. It examines the state of information on the environmental condition of land and makes recommendations for improvement.

Available in English and French.
1998, 64 pp., ISBN 1-895643-70-8
$9.95 ($7 US)

Measuring Eco-efficiency in Business: Feasibility of a Core Set of Indicators

By the NRTEE

Measuring environmental performance objectives in a standardized manner will allow useful dialogue and permit easy comparison between divisions, companies and business sectors. The NRTEE, with the cooperation of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the active participation of eight companies, has developed a set of indicators which could accomplish this objective. This report focuses on indicators for energy and material intensity, and has many practical lessons.

Available in English and French.
1999, 55 pp., ISBN 1-895643-98-8
$14.95 ($10.50 US)

Virtual Library

Visit the NRTEE's Virtual Library at www.nrtee-trnee.ca. The Virtual Library allows access to over 300 NRTEE documents and publications.

www.nrtee-trnee.ca

Reports

Private Woodlot Management in the Maritimes

By the NRTEE

Private woodlots in Canada's Maritime Provinces face serious management problems. Stakeholders agree unsustainable management will have negative economic, social and environmental impacts. The report, calling for action by both the public and private sectors, outlines recommendations for provincial and federal tax reforms to encourage sustainable woodlot management practices, the establishment of an industry/woodlot-owner trust fund, mandatory licensing and training programs, the development of codes of practice and cooperative ventures among stakeholder groups.

Available in English and French.
1997, 44 pp., ISBN 1-895643-58-9
$9.95 ($7 US)

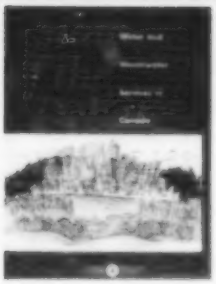
The Road to Sustainable Transportation in Canada

By the NRTEE

Transportation in Canada is on an unsustainable path. The transport sector contributes about 30 percent of greenhouse gases from human activity. As the second-highest per capita energy consuming nation on Earth, Canada is particularly vulnerable to the possible economic impacts of international agreements to reduce fossil energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

This report, the product of research and consultation among key stakeholders, including federal, provincial and municipal government representatives, energy producers, carriers and shippers, users and suppliers, labour union members and members of transportation- and environment-related non-governmental organizations, puts forward a series of recommendations aimed at achieving long-term sustainability in Canada's transport sector.

Available in English and French.
1997, 50 pp., ISBN 1-895643-68-6
$9.95 ($7 US)



Water and Wastewater Services in Canada

By the NRTEE

Faced with a shortage of public funding and a deterioration of our water infrastructure, communities across Canada are grappling with the challenge of helping to preserve the environment while maintaining or expanding our water and wastewater system.

This report is the result of NRTEE round table debates and discussions linking stakeholders in the public and private sectors. It identifies areas of major national consensus and divergence and examines alternative modes of financing and delivering water and wastewater services through public-private partnerships.

Available in English and French.
1996, 39 pp., ISBN 1-895643-46-5
$9.95 ($7 US)

Cleaning up the Past, Building the Future: A National Brownfield Redevelopment Strategy for Canada

By the NRTEE

This strategy is designed to eliminate key barriers to brownfield redevelopment, including lack of access to capital, liability and risk problems, and low stakeholder awareness. The result is a realistic, practical, and innovative blueprint for action that presents a coordinated, comprehensive national approach to cleaning up and redeveloping brownfields in Canada.

Available in English and French.
2003, 82 pp., ISBN 1-894737-05-9
$14.95 ($10.50 US)

Canada's Options for a Domestic Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Program

By the NRTEE

This report examines the strengths and weaknesses of five potential options for a domestic emissions trading program for greenhouse gases. It urges the federal and provincial governments to proceed immediately, in consultation with industry and environmental groups, with the analysis required to select and implement a suitably designed emissions trading program.

Available in English and French.
1999, 110 pp., ISBN 1-895643-96-1
$15.95 ($11.50 US)

Toward a Canadian Agenda for Ecological Fiscal Reform: First Steps

By the NKTEE

The NRTEE released this report to expand the understanding of how government taxation and expenditures can be redirected to create an integrated set of incentives to support the shift to sustainable development. International experience was examined and three case studies undertaken to illustrate and explore specific challenges for the application of ecological fiscal reform (EFR).

Lessons learned during these case studies were used to construct a framework for EFR, including guiding principles that can apply to a broader range of sustainable development issues.

Available in English and French.
2002, 54 pp., ISBN 1-894737-04-0
$14.95 ($10.50 US)

Publications Catalogue

National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy

Backgrounder Series

Improving Site-Specific Data on the Environmental Condition of Land

By the NRTEE

This *Backgrounder* investigates current sources of site-specific information and possible strategies for improving such information — from strengthening registry requirements in the provinces to encompass a broader variety of sites, to establishing a self-funding program designed to assemble high-priority data for selected urban sites.

Available in English and French.
1997, 149 pp., ISBN 1-895643-56-2
$8.95 ($6.50 US)

Contaminated Site Issues in Canada

By the NRTEE

Contaminated Site Issues in Canada identifies broad issues related to contaminated sites, including inconsistencies among the provinces and territories in allocating liability, and the role of insurance in environmental protection. The report also sets the context for more detailed work relating to site-specific information and brownfield redevelopment.

Available in English and French.
1997, 66 pp., ISBN 1-895643-54-6
$8.95 ($6.50 US)

The Financial Services Sector and Brownfield Redevelopment

By the NRTEE

This *Backgrounder* explores the role of the financial services sector in facilitating brownfield redevelopment. The report, which is co-published with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, recommends adoption of an integrated and comprehensive approach that includes the participation of local and provincial governments, developers and the public.

Available in English and French.
1997, 74 pp., ISBN 1-895643-60-0
$8.95 ($6.50 US)

Removing Barriers: Redeveloping Contaminated Sites for Housing

By the NRTEE

Looks at some of the factors impeding the redevelopment of contaminated sites, reviews initiatives in various Canadian and American jurisdictions, and identifies areas requiring further research. This report is also co-published with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Available in English and French.
1997, 144 pp., ISBN 1-895643-62-7
$8.95 ($6.50 US)

Measuring Eco-efficiency in Business

By the NRTEE

The federal government sought the advice of the NRTEE in establishing specific targets to help business and other sectors become more eco-efficient and to understand the implications of those targets for developing new technologies. This background document presents progress to date in developing a core set of indicators for measuring eco-efficiency in business.

Available in English and French.
1997, 61 pp., ISBN 1-895643-64-3
$8.95 ($6.50 US)

Sustainable Transportation in Canada

Prepared by Apogee Research for the NRTEE Task Force on Sustainable Transportation

Through this publication, policy and decision makers, researchers and industry leaders have access to a comprehensive review of research on sustainable transportation in Canada. This report explores such issues as the health and environmental effects of current transportation practices, methods and trends, with a primary focus on the essential role of all levels of government in achieving sustainable transportation.

Available in English and French.
1996, 83 pp., ISBN 1-895643-47-3
$8.95 ($6.50 US)

Going for Green: Meeting Foreign Demand for Environmentally Preferable Products and Services through Federal Procurement

Prepared by TerraChoice Environmental Services Inc. for the NRTEE Task Force on Federal Green Procurement

Federal green procurement can encourage many industry sectors to upgrade their processes and raise production standards by introducing broad environmental requirements into procurement specifications. This *Backgrounder* is intended to stimulate thought and discussion among Canadian stakeholders and to broaden the base upon which federal procurement decisions are made.

Available in English and French.
1997, 75 pp., ISBN 1-895643-52-X
$8.95 ($6.50 US)

Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Urban Transportation

By the NRTEE

Explores the debate that exists regarding the problems and potential solutions related to Canada's current and projected urban transportation greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and its relation to Canada's Kyoto commitment. The report examines 11 types of initiatives that can be taken to reduce CO_2 emissions from urban transportation including fuel taxes, corporate average fuel efficiency/consumption (CAFE/CAFC) standards, fuel efficiency fees/rebates, and enhanced transit and urban design.

Available in English and French.
1998, 117 pp., ISBN 1-895643-76-7
$14.95 ($10.50 US)

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Long-Term Energy and Climate Change Strategy: Canada and the World

The NRTEE believes that our response to climate change will have a big impact on our economic prosperity and competitiveness, social well-being, national security, energy security and sovereignty. And, given the huge potential impact of climate change on Canada's economy and environment, Canada can and should be an international leader in combating global climate change.

That's why the NRTEE is finalizing the international elements of its *Long-Term Energy and Climate Change Strategy*. Here's a quick overview of the strategy recommendations in the international report, scheduled for release in early fall.

Integrating Climate Change into Canada's Aid, Foreign Policy and Trade Policy

Climate change must be seen as directly intersecting Canada's traditional foreign policy—particularly in relation to sovereignty, security and global economic stability—as well as our trade policy and aid policy. Recommendations include, for example, pursuing bilateral partnerships that serve multiple Canadian economic and environmental interests, making the Arctic a higher priority, mounting a sustainable energy strategy within the G8 and redeploying Canada's development resources for climate change control.

Trade Promotion Strategy for Climate-Related Technologies

The NRTEE believes there needs to be close alignment between Canada's national interest and any strategy for promoting the export of Canadian climate-change technologies.

Recommendations include: increasing the integration of existing Canadian trade promotion strategies and programs; creating and strengthening domestic technology platforms for demonstrating commercial success; reducing or eliminating Canadian content rules at early development stages; enhancing direct governmental support for strategic, early-stage market development activities; and, supporting an international trade regime that encourages the diffusion of environmental technology and expertise through the World Trade Organization and the current Doha Development Round.

Carbon Markets and Linking a Canadian Market to International Markets

Access to global carbon markets, estimated to be worth $3 trillion by 2020, is crucial for Canada. Carbon markets can make the carbon reductions inherent in a project serve the dual purpose of both helping finance the project and ensuring its value after the initial installation. However, any effective international market for carbon/GHG emissions must eventually include the US. Canada's policy priority should be the development of a market that includes the US, and the possibility of exploring North American carbon/GHG trading opportunities.

For more information on Canada's long-term international energy and climate change strategy, please consult our Web site at www.nrtee-trnee.ca. ■

NRTEE Launches New Climate Change Adaptation Program

The impacts of climate change are increasingly being felt in Canada. Governments at all levels need to be proactive in helping to ensure that our communities and economic sectors have the capacity to adapt to climate change-related impacts. For this reason, the National Round Table is launching a new policy research program on climate change adaptation.

The program assumes that climate change impacts are intensifying and are here to stay, that there is a policy gap in addressing the impacts of climate change, and that as a national rather than a federal body, the NRTEE is well positioned to provide multi-jurisdictional advice on meeting this challenge. The NRTEE will be convening multistakeholder meetings to consult experts in the diverse areas of policy targeted by the program.

The NRTEE believes that the federal government can play a significant role fostering across Canadian society the consideration of climate change impacts and adaptation as risk management issues. The Round Table has already identified four policy areas of likely significance in this regard: disaster management; insurance and alternative risk-spreading mechanisms; codes and standards; and, project finance and capital markets.

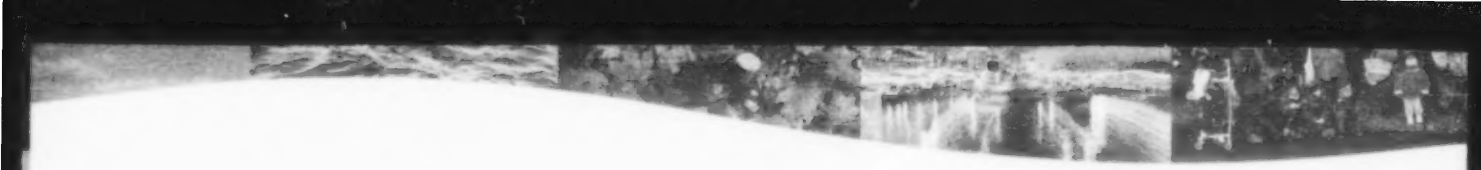
Research on climate change adaptation policy will be conducted in two phases. The first phase will involve preparation of a foundation paper that examines in broad terms the role of government in adaptation.

In the second phase, the NRTEE will develop policy recommendations aimed at improving the integration of climate change-related impacts into risk management and decision making in Canada.

Defining "Adaptation"

"Adaptation" has been defined as adjusting natural or human systems, in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli, to moderate harm or exploit benefits. In the context of climate change, for example:

- anticipatory adaptation is implemented before a climate event;
- reactive adaptation occurs in response to a climate event; and,
- planned adaptation is the result of awareness of climate change and deliberate policy decisions, and can support anticipatory or reactive adaptation. ■



NRTEE Advisory Report, *continued...*

Canada can lower GHG emissions as much as 60 percent from today's levels by the year 2050.

- Energy policy in this century means addressing both energy use and energy production by increasing energy efficiency while reducing carbon intensity.
- Approximately 40 percent of the 60 percent reduction in GHG emissions could be achieved by increasing energy efficiency. The question is not which technologies to deploy, but how to deploy all the potential GHG reduction technologies, particularly in the areas of personal and freight transportation, and residential and commercial buildings.
- Canada's growing role as a major energy exporter is compatible with deep GHG emissions, but only if carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) is perfected. Using this technology in the oil and gas sector could benefit Canada environmentally and competitively as a leading provider of energy to the world.
- To reduce GHG emissions by 60 percent, the electricity sector will need to be transformed between now and 2050. As with the oil and gas sector, CCS and clean coal technology will play important roles; so will cogeneration and renewable energy, particularly wind energy.
- Reducing GHG emissions will significantly reduce air pollution as well as having other benefits.

The study underlines the need for a clear long-term signal, particularly to the private sector, that Canada is going to take action on climate change. ■

The full text of the Advisory Report to the Minister of the Environment is available at www.nrtee-trnee.ca.

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